

NEWS RELEASE

June 19, 2013



ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY

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**TO PROTECT AND TO SERVE
A Look at Tools to Assist Law Enforcement
In Achieving Positive Outcomes with the Homeless Mentally Ill**

Santa Ana, California---This study, *To Protect And To Serve*, is, in fact, three studies in one. The first deals with understanding the disenfranchised among us – the homeless, the mentally disturbed and emotionally wounded and what is available potentially to help. The second tackles law enforcement training and the third states a case for national accreditation for law enforcement agencies.

Homelessness is not a crime. However, homelessness and homelessness coupled with mental illness can create a ‘perfect storm’ that requires outside intervention. When that storm occurs, it is usually law enforcement that must deal with the consequences.

In the aftermath of the Kelly Thomas incident in Fullerton, July 2011, law enforcement came under scrutiny; specifically, the way officers interact with those living on the street.

The 2012-2013 Grand Jury had this public scrutiny in mind when it chose to examine what kind of on-going in-depth training officers receive and what tools are available to assist in achieving positive outcomes when interacting with the homeless mentally ill. The Grand Jury discovered that some of these tools are useful to private citizens and can be utilized effectively when meeting those who many times live on the margins of our society.

The Grand Jury report, including Findings/Conclusions and Recommendations, can be found on the Orange County Grand Jury’s website, www.ocgrandjury.org. This report will also be included as part of the Final Report of the 2012-2013 Grand Jury, to be published later this year.

2012-2013 Orange County Grand Jury

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raymond Garcia".

Raymond Garcia
Foreman